

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 688

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to urge the state board of education to join with other states in formulating the foundation for an interstate compact on reciprocal licensing of teachers.

WHEREAS, teachers who move from one state to another and want to continue teaching in their new state of residence may find their ability to teach impeded by the differing licensing requirements of the two states; and

WHEREAS, our mobile society should not erect barriers that prevent qualified teachers who want to continue teaching after a transfer of state residence from easily becoming certified to teach in the new jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, barriers to obtaining licensure for transferring teachers should not exist when local boards of education are expected in the near future to have difficulty finding highly qualified teachers to staff their classrooms, as many teachers now in the teaching force will soon reach the age of retirement; and

WHEREAS, online teacher education courses are increasingly the option of choice, particularly for nontraditional students seeking to enter teaching, because of the flexibility that online training affords in meeting the requirements of a job or the needs of family life while pursuing teaching credentials; and

WHEREAS, online teacher education is not handled in a consistent manner from state-to-state in licensure programs; and

WHEREAS, all states would benefit from an interstate compact on teacher licensing that specifically deals with reciprocity between states in granting teaching licenses and the use of online education to gain teaching credentials; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the state board of education is urged to initiate a dialogue with education agencies of other states to formulate an agreement that can be adopted by states as an interstate compact on reciprocal licensing of teachers, such compact to specifically addresses the use of online education to gain teaching credentials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the state board of education.